

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AORG, WMO  
SUBJECT: WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - DECISIONS ON  
WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAM (WCP)

1. SUMMARY: THE EC REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS  
OF SYG TO LAUNCH A MAJOR WMO PROGRAM ON WORLD CLIMATE  
WHICH WILL - A) AIM AT IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHANGE  
AND VARIABILITY OF CLIMATE AND ITS IMPACT ON HUMAN  
ACTIVITIES AND B) ASSIST IN PLANNING SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
ACTIVITIES SO THAT THESE ARE LESS VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE  
CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

2. EC DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO THE EIGHTH CONGRESS  
(1979) THE ADOPTION BY WMO OF A MAJOR WORLD CLIMATE  
PROGRAM (WCP), WHOSE THREE COMPONENT PROGRAMS WILL  
BE:

-- CLIMATIC DATA AND APPLICATION PROGRAM

-- PROGRAM FOR STUDY OF IMPACTS OF CLIMATE  
ON HUMAN ACTIVITIES;

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-- PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGES  
AND VARIABILITY.

3. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WCP WILL BE:

-- TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF NATURAL VARIABILITY  
OF CLIMATE AND EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGES DUE EITHER

TO NATURAL CAUSES OR TO MAN'S ACTIVITIES;

-- TO ASSIST DECISION-MAKERS IN PLANNING AND COORDINATING CLIMATE-SENSITIVE ACTIVITIES OF ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCES SO THAT THESE ARE LESS VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIATIONS.

4. ALTHOUGH THE CONCEPT OF A COMPREHENSIVE WCP IS NEW, THE ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF WMO ALREADY TOUCH UPON ALL FIELDS OF CLIMATE AND, THEREFORE, A SOLID FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE ALREADY EXISTS FOR WCP. HOWEVER, THE WCP AS ENVISIONED BY EC ENTAILS A CONSIDERABLE REORIENTATION AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING EFFORTS AND IMPLIES CONSIDERABLE COLLABORATION WITH NON-METEOROLOGICAL COMMUNITY, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF WMO. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS (ICSU).

5. THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WCP AS PROPOSED BY EC INCLUDE AN EC INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE WCP. THE PANEL WILL ALSO FORMULATE POLICY, AND ARRANGE FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES BEYOND THOSE AVAILABLE WITHIN BUDGETS OF WMO AND OTHER UN AGENCIES. THE EC REQUESTED THE SYG TO INVESTIGATE WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS THE MOST SUITABLE MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF INTERAGENCY AND INTER-  
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DISCIPLINARY ACTIVITIES.

6. THE CLIMATIC DATA AND APPLICATIONS PROGRAM BUILDS ON THE EXISTING WORLD WEATHER WATCH AND CLIMATOLOGICAL NETWORKS. IT ALSO COVERS THE FULL RANGE OF SERVICES TO USERS AND TO RESEARCHERS THROUGH MECHANISMS TAILORED TO THEIR NEEDS. MAIN OBJECTIVE IS INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCING VULNERABILITY OF CLIMATE-SENSITIVE ACTIVITIES. ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE DATA AND APPLICATIONS PROGRAM WILL BE ARRANGING EFFECTIVE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO SERVICES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VAP) OF THE ORGANIZATION.

7. PROGRAM FOR THE STUDY OF IMPACT OF CLIMATE ON HUMAN ACTIVITIES WILL AIM AT GAINING BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ROLE OF CLIMATE IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS; IMPROVING APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF CLIMATE; AND PROVIDING NATIONS WITH KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO LESSEN THEIR VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY. CLIMATE IN THIS CONTEXT IS CONCEIVED AS A RESOURCE TO BE USED WISELY

AND TO BE PROTECTED BY THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. THE THRUST OF THIS EFFORT WILL BE THE STUDY OF LONG-RANGE PROBLEMS OF GLOBAL CHARACTER.

8. THE PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH ON CLIMATIC CHANGES AND VARIABILITY HAS AS ITS OBJECTIVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THESE PHENOMENA, WHETHER CAUSED BY NATURAL OR HUMAN INFLUENCES. THE WMO WILL INVITE THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS (ICSU) TO SET UP A JOINT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (JSC) OF TWELVE DISTINGUISHED SPECIALISTS TO PLAN AND OVERSEE THIS WORK. THE JSC AND ITS SUPPORTING SCIENTIFIC STAFF WILL BE LOCATED IN WMO, BUT WILL BE APPOINTED WITH THE JOINT APPROVAL

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OF WMO AND ICSU.

9. COMMENT: THE EC RECOMMENDATION TO EIGHTH CONGRESS ON A WCP AS OUTLINED ABOVE WERE THE RESULT OF LENGTHY DEBATES AMONG MEMBERS, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH SOVIET VIEWS WERE OFTEN IN CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF US, OTHER MEMBERS AND WMO SECRETARIAT. AS NOW PROPOSED BY EC 30TH SESSION, THE WCP CONTAINS ALL MAJOR ELEMENTS OF US PROPOSALS AND REFLECTS TO SATISFACTORY EXTENT US APPROACH AND SENSE OF PRIORITY. END COMMENT.

10. IN RELATED MATTER, EC AGREED ON A "WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE - A CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS ON CLIMATE AND MANKIND" TO BE HELD IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY 1979. THE PRESIDENT OF WMO, M.F. TAHA, WILL ACT AS HONORARY PRESIDENT; DR. R. WHITE, FORMER U.S. MEMBER OF EC, WAS APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE.

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